

What does Scripture really say? «The most well-known verse in the New Testament – and thus the most famous sentence ever written in Greek – is John 3:16, which reads, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” Generations of children have memorized this passage, and doubtless the overwhelming majority of them have understood the word “so” to mean “so much.” Countless sermons and Bible lessons have focused on the vastness of God’s love for the world: “He loved us so much that...” Of course, it is true that God loves us “so much”, and other passages of the Bible emphasize this fact, but this passage is not talking about the greatness of God’s love. The Greek word οὕτως [houtōs] is not used in the sense of “so much”; it is used to mean **“in such a way”** or **“in this manner.”** John 3:16 is saying that the way God loved the world was by giving his only Son, Jesus. When I [the author] was teaching this verse to my own son (then three years old), I taught it to him as “This is the way God loved the world.” God’s giving of his Son to us is the very definition of his love, not merely the result of how much he loves us. Thus, the most famous verse in the Bible appears to us with deeper significance as we begin to understand the nuances of Greek words.» **Try to remember this each and every time you look at the Holy and Life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

The above quoted passage is taken from the book Understanding Language. A Guide for Beginning Students of Greek & Latin by Dr. Donald Fairbairn, PhD; published in 2011 by The Catholic University of America Press.



- 1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
- 2] So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large and the Rear view Mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
- 3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.

5] Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!

6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.



This week in our study of colors used in Byzantine iconography we

shall look at the color BROWN: The color of earth, of clay and of sod, brown results from a mixture of red, blue, green and some black. It suggests dead leaves, autumn and the decomposition of plants, which turn into dark soil. An extensive palette of browns can be mixed by a gradual shading from the prime colors. Brown does not at all possess the dynamics and radiance of these latter. And yet icons are often painted in different tones of ochres, playing with light and conveying the image of a transfigured land celebrating the Paschal banquet.

The monastic habit, as a symbol of poverty and of humility, from the Latin word *humus* meaning earth or soil, recalls a slow death to the world, so that the monk may become a fertile “soil” for the grace of God; hence the clothing of monks is painted on icons with shades of brown or black.

